



## WELL-KNOWN FISH SPECIES OF MANITOBA

Manitobans are invited to nominate their favourite native fish species and help select the provincial fish. Some of Manitoba's most well-known fish species include:

- Channel catfish – Channel catfish are found in southern Manitoba in the Red, Assiniboine and Winnipeg rivers, channel catfish are top-level predators that actively feed on goldeye and other fish. Over the last 20 years, channel catfish have gone from being regarded as a coarse fish to being a highly valued angling species.
- Freshwater drum – Freshwater drum are found in the Red and Assiniboine rivers, lakes Manitoba and Winnipeg as well as the lower Nelson River. They consume a variety of small fish and use their large grinding teeth to crush shelled prey such as small clams and crayfish. Large groups of freshwater drum are unique, as they produce a sound that can be heard through the water.
- Goldeye – Goldeye belong to an ancient order of bony-tongued fishes and are found in southern and central Manitoba, and as far north as the Churchill River watershed. Smoked 'Winnipeg goldeye' is the most popular form of consumption and a staple in the commercial fish trade.
- Lake sturgeon – Today, lake sturgeon are found in the Red, Assiniboine, Winnipeg, Saskatchewan, Hayes and Nelson rivers, and are one of the most unique fish in Manitoba. They are the largest and longest living fish with a life span close to 100 years and have a skeleton made of cartilage rather than bone.
- Lake trout – Lake trout are among the largest species of fish in Manitoba and are found in the cold, clear, deep lakes in the Canadian Shield and in a number of stocked waters in Manitoba's Parkland region. They are one of a small number of species that spawn in the fall and are top-level predators, consuming whitefish, cisco and white sucker.
- Lake whitefish – Lake whitefish are found in cooler, deeper lakes and streams throughout much of northern and central Manitoba, one of a small number of species that spawn in the fall. Lake whitefish are historically important to First Nations, Métis, and Aboriginal domestic fisheries, and were a food staple in Manitoba during the latter part of the fur trade.
- Northern pike – Northern pike are found throughout much of the province and are one of the most widely distributed fish. Northern pike are highly sought after by recreational anglers and are the second most important species to Manitoba's commercial fishery in northern Manitoba. Due to their wide distribution and large size, northern pike are considered the top-level predator in many of Manitoba's lakes and rivers.

- Sauger – Sauger are found in lakes, rivers, and streams throughout much of Manitoba. While similar to but smaller than walleye, sauger have distinct characteristics such as black striations on their dorsal fins. In Manitoba's recreational fishery, sauger are commonly caught and regarded as high-quality eating.
- Walleye – Walleye are found throughout much of the province and are the most valuable recreational and commercial fish in the province. They are also culturally important to First Nations, Métis and Aboriginal communities as a food source.
- Yellow perch – Yellow perch are found throughout most of the province, with the exception of a number of northern Manitoba watersheds. Their abundance, wide distribution and availability close to shore make them readily accessible for shoreline anglers. Yellow perch are among the most common first catch of young anglers.